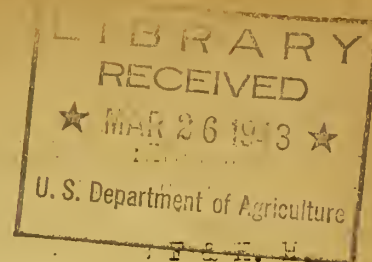


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"Beefsteak On The Hoof"

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Broadcast by Wallace Kadderly, Radio Service, J. Vern Hopkin, Utah AAA Committeeman, and Ray Reese, rancher from Rich County, Utah, in the Department of Agriculture's portion of the National Farm and Home Hour, Wednesday, January 27, 1943, over stations associated with the Blue Network.

KADDERLY: This is Wallace Kadderly in Washington with another in our Wednesday series of Farm Production Line Reports. Today's topic is "Beefsteak on the Hoof."

Fighting men eat lots of meat. Our demand for meat has gone up and up. Our military and lend-lease demands are so great that civilians are being asked to hold down the amount of meat they buy so as to share the meat with our fighting men. At the same time farmers are being asked to increase meat production as much as possible. Cattlemen are asked to market nine percent more cattle and calves this year than they marketed last year. In the Western Range country the number of cattle that can be raised depends directly upon the range itself. Maximum beef output can be obtained only by stocking the range with the number of cattle the range will normally handle. For a report on "beefsteak on the hoof," by transcription you'll hear from J. Vern Hopkin, Utah rancher and Triple-A committeeman. Mr. Hopkin, you were saying that from your experience larger numbers of cattle don't always mean more beef.

(BEGIN TRANSCRIPTION --- Time: 5 minutes and 25 seconds.)

HOPKIN: Yes, sir. After all, it's pounds of beef and not tally numbers that count. And now that we're producin' beefsteaks to beat the Axis that's more important than ever. Producing beefsteaks is a little different than producing bombs and planes and guns. If you want to make more ships, you just build bigger shipyards and put on more men. You can't do that with beef. It takes a lot of water and grass and hay and grain to produce beef. And it takes time. You can't just go out and put a steer together like Henry Kaiser puts together one of those Victory ships. Up here in Rich County, in the northeast corner of Utah, most of us are interested in livestock. We can't grow many war crops but we can produce good beef.

And one of the men who are doing a lot of that is my old neighbor, Ray Reese. Ray and his brother Will are the backbone of the Reese Land and Livestock Company. I've known Ray ever since I was a kid.

REESE: We used to live over in Summit County, where Vern grew up. I've known Vern since he was knee-high to a grasshopper.

HOPKIN: We've seen a lot of changes in the range during that time, too.

REESE: I'll say we have.

HOPKIN: And one thing we've found out is that you just can't go along without paying any attention to grass and water.

REESE: Well, Triple-A has done quite a bit to help us out on that.

HOPKIN: You should know, Ray. You've been in the program ever since it started. I remember when you first started out building dams. You tried hiring it done but that was too slow.

REESE: Oh, it wasn't exactly too slow, Vern. But we couldn't always get an outfit to build a dam when we wanted to, so we got an outfit of our own. We have two bulldozers and a carry-all. You see, with our own machinery we could sort of fit building reservoirs into our other work.

HOPKIN: How are they working out?

REESE: Some of them have been real life-savers. We can feed the range a lot better than we used to. A cow don't have to trail half way across the State to get a drink. With more water the calves get more milk and grow into beef quicker. But it requires more bulls on the range when you have more watering places.

HOPKIN: Of course, water isn't the whole story. It takes grass, too.

REESE: Sure. But with the water where you need it you don't have to grub the range so close around a few watering places.

HOPKIN: That's true. But your range is different than mine. Our range is too steep for reservoirs but we have developed a lot of seeps and we've used windmills where there wasn't a seep.

REESE: Well, the idea is the same. It's to get watering places spread around over the range so stock don't have to travel so far to get a drink. It's all tied up with this idea of better distribution of livestock on the range.

HOPKIN: We're beginning to realize that grass is one of our most important crops in Utah. And we're finding out that we can't go on year after year eating it off and expect it to come back. You've seen what happens. Sagebrush is replacing grass where the range has been overstocked; then in some places even the sagebrush is dying out. We can't produce beefsteaks to beat the Axis on range land like that, Ray.

REESE: Of course, some of that has been caused by dry weather, Vern.

HOPKIN: Sure. But with the grass eaten off and trails all over the country, what little water does fall, runs right off.

REESE: That's one reason we began pasturing our yearling steers. In that way we've reduced the number of livestock on the range. You see there's a balance between grass and cattle.

HOPKIN: And to play safe it's a little more grass than cattle all the time.

REESE: But too many of us look on the good years to set up the balance. We forget years like 1934.

HOPKIN: You sold quite a few cows this fall, didn't you?

REESE: Well, all together we sold about 625 head of cattle. I'd say about 150 fat cows, 75 cull and old cows. Pasturing our steer calves and selling them at yearlings we can maintain our breeding herd, still give the range a chance, and sell more pounds of beef.

HOPKIN: In that way you are turning out the beef we need so badly right now and improving your range at the same time.

REESE: Well, Vern, we're finding out like you said a moment ago--that numbers of cattle don't always mean more beef.

HOPKIN: And, too, Ray, we're going to have to produce more beef with less help.

REESE: I'll say. Since Wayne left, I've been wondering a lot just what we're going to do. Wayne was just about taking charge of the cattle. And I'll tell you, Vern, you don't make a top cowhand in a month. They have to grow up in it.

HOPKIN: Then besides your son you've lost several of your men.

REESE: Yes, let me see, they've taken Parley Bill, and Koska Bruce, Floyd and Shorty Spencer.

HOPKIN: But it's the same everywhere.

REESE: I guess it is.

HOPKIN: Looks like we're in for some tough going.

REESE: Sure we are. But so are our boys. The boys all felt that they wanted to be where they could do the most good. I feel that way about it, too. If producing beefsteaks is my job, I'll do the best I can. But I believe beefsteaks are just as important as bullets. It's going to take a lot of beefsteaks to get our boys to where they can use the bullets.

(END OF TRANSCRIPTION)

KADDERLY: And more of those boys are getting there all the time, Mr. Reese. Farm and Home friends today you've heard J. Vern Hopkin, a Utah rancher and Triple-A committeeman, and Ray Reese, a cattle rancher from Rich County, Utah, discuss beef raising in the range country.

On next week's Farm Production Line Report two farmers from Texas will tell about war time production of fresh winter vegetables.

